

What Is Claimed:

1 1) A method for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising the steps of:

2 a) receiving a phone address entered by a caller;

3 b) determining the entry modality used by said caller to enter the received phone

4 address;

5 c) decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry

6 modality;

7 d) consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference

8 table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

9 e) connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said step of

10 consulting the reference table.

1 2) The method of claim 1, wherein the decoded phone address is an ambiguous

2 phone address.

1 3) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of consulting the reference table

2 further includes consulting said table using additional information specified by an ambiguity

3 resolving parameter, and wherein said step of connecting the caller is not performed if no

4 telephone number results from said step of consulting.

1 4) The method of claim 1 wherein said reference table is a lookup table.

1 5) The method of claim 1 wherein said reference table is a database.

1 6) A system for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

2 a memory having program code stored therein; and

3 a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in

4 accordance with stored program code;

5 wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said

6 processor to perform the steps of:

7 a) receiving a phone address entered by a caller;

8 b) determining the entry modality used by said caller to enter the received phone

9 address;

10 c) decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry

11 modality;

12 d) consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference

13 table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

14 e) connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said step of

15 consulting the reference table.

1 7) The system of claim 6, wherein the decoded phone address is an ambiguous

2 phone address

1 8) The system of claim 7 wherein said step of consulting the reference table

2 further includes consulting said table using additional information specified by an ambiguity

3 resolving parameter, and wherein said step of connecting the caller is not performed if no
4 telephone number results from said step of consulting.

1 9) The system of claim 6 wherein said reference table is a lookup table.

1 10) The system of claim 6 wherein said reference table is a database.

1 11) A method for determining telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

- 2 a) receiving from a caller an ambiguous phone address;
3 b) collecting the additional information specified by an ambiguity

4 resolving parameter; and

- 5 c) determining, using said additional information, whether said phone
6 address resolves to a telephone number.

1 12) A system for determining telephone numbers, comprising:

2 a memory having program code stored therein; and

3 a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in

4 accordance with stored program code;

5 wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said

6 processor to perform the steps of:

7 a) receiving from a caller an ambiguous phone address;

8 b) collecting the additional information specified by an ambiguity

9 resolving parameter; and

10 c) determining, using said additional information, whether said phone
11 address resolves to a telephone number.

1 13) The method of claim 11, further including the step of:
2 connecting said caller to the telephone number which said phone address resolves
3 to.

1 14) The system of claim 12, further including the step of:
2 connecting said caller to the telephone number which said phone address resolves
3 to.

15) The method of claim 11, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to a
single telephone number.

1 16) The method of claim 11, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to
2 more than one telephone number.

17) The system of claim 12, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to a
single telephone number.

1 19) The system of claim 6, integrated into a central office.

1 20) The system of claim 6, integrated into a central controller.

1 21) The system of claim 6, integrated into a unit which interfaces between a
2 telephone subscriber's telephone units and the subscriber's connection to a telephone network.

1 22) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the caller's
2 present location.

1 23) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the telephone
2 number the call is being placed from.

1 24) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the identity of
2 the caller.

1 25) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the caller's
2 response to one or more queries.

1 26) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the caller's
2 present location.

1 27) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the telephone
2 number the call is being placed from.

1 28) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the identity of
2 the caller.

1 29) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the caller's
2 response to one or more queries.

30) A method for determining a telephone number, comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a phone address; and
- b) determining a telephone number correlated with the received phone address.

31) A system for determining a telephone number, comprising:

- a memory having program code stored therein; and
- a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in
with stored program code;
- wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said
processor to perform the steps of:
 - a) receiving a phone address; and
 - b) determining a telephone number correlated with the received phone address.